

III. EXISTING AND PROJECTED CONDITIONS

Travel is directly related to population, employment, and the economic vitality of an area. Changes in one or more of these factors will dramatically affect the amount of traffic on the road and consequently the amount of congestion. In evaluating travel demand for the present and future, it is important to evaluate each of these factors and integrate their effects.

Population Trends

Clayton has experienced steady population growth over the past several years. The recent boom in subdivision construction is evidence of the increased demand for housing in the area. Continued growth will lead to increases in travel demand which will create a need for more efficient travel routes. Population trends and projections for Clayton, Clayton Township, and Johnston County are shown in Table 1 below:

POPULATION TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS				
YEAR	NORTH CAROLINA	JOHNSTON COUNTY	CLAYTON TOWNSHIP	CLAYTON TOWN
1940	3,571,623	63,798	5,329	1,711
1950	4,061,929	65,906	5,726	2,229
1960	4,556,155	62,936	6,094	3,302
1970	5,084,411	61,737	6,671	3,103
1980	5,881,766	70,599	8,423	4,091
1990	6,613,391*	82,509*	11,709**	5,855**
2000	7,260,748*	93,431*	14,989**	8,382**
2010	7,775,979*	103,063*	18,272**	12,000**
<p>Notes:</p> <p>* Projections for North Carolina and Johnston County taken from the Office of State Budget and Management, State of North Carolina, 1989.</p> <p>**Clayton Township and Clayton projections are based on historical trends and expected growth.</p>				

TABLE 1